



Agenda Item 3

**CITY OF SUNNYVALE
REPORT
Parks and Recreation Commission**

April 12, 2006

SUBJECT: Proposed Cingular Wireless Cellular Antenna Project at Lakewood Park

BACKGROUND

Cingular Wireless Corporation contacted the City and proposed a wireless antenna project to enhance communications for their customers in the north portion of Sunnyvale. (Please see Attachment A, project site plans.) The proposed project would place cellular antennas onto a ballfield lighting pole at the softball field in Lakewood Park. To avoid using recreational space for related equipment, the company has proposed replacement and enlargement of the existing snack shack building at the ballfields. Replacing the building through this project would meet the needs of Cingular Wireless and provide a new facility for sports groups. The City would save future infrastructure costs if the project is approved.

Staff recommend that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend that the Planning Commission approve the proposed cellular antenna project as proposed by Cingular Wireless and as noted in Attachment A.

EXISTING POLICY

From the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element:

B. Programming: The City strives to develop and implement passive and active recreation and enrichment programs that:

- provide constructive opportunities for fitness, well-being, healthy coping and stress management;
- highlight cultural practices and traditions reflective of a diverse community;
- promote activities that foster interaction among diverse parts of the community;
- encourage creative expression, education, skill development, and personal enrichment;

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- contribute to the creation of a healthy community; and
- promote community participation in recreation for all ages.

It is the City's policy, therefore, to leverage available resources by pursuing co-funded and/or cooperative agreements for provision and maintenance of programs, facilities, and services, in order to maximize benefits to the community. Partners may include, but are not limited to, school districts, non-profit groups, governmental agencies and businesses.

DISCUSSION

As the demand for cellular telephones increases, the need for complete signal coverage also increases. Therefore, more cellular antenna projects have been proposed throughout Sunnyvale. In order to improve wireless signal strength, cellular companies are seeking permission to install cellular antennas within residential neighborhoods. This is the case at Lakewood Park where Cingular Wireless has proposed this project.

Use of existing park land is of interest to the community and staff facilitated public meetings with a Cingular Wireless representative to gather neighbor input. (Please see Attachment B, Invitation to Public Meetings.) The current use of land, in this instance, is for a snack shack and walkway. The proposed building would replace the worn existing structure and accommodate the support equipment for the antennas. Upon completion, service to the sports groups would be enhanced as they are able to make use of a new facility in the coming years.

Area neighbors that attended public meetings expressed interest as to whether the baseball user groups would lose access to the snack shack while the project was under construction and if the space would be about the same. The representative said that they would coordinate the construction schedule to allow Little League access, and the area would actually be expanded as compared with the current building.

Neighbors also queried whether a restroom could be included and that is not anticipated in this project. Some neighbors wondered whether there are health concerns with cellular antennas. The company representative shared that microwave levels of the proposed project would be similar to those of household appliances, toasters and ovens. Additional discussions included whether other companies' cellular antennas would be placed here and what life span the lease would have. Currently, no other companies have proposed placement of antennas at this park and most cellular antenna leases have twenty-year terms.

FISCAL IMPACT

Removal and replacement of the Lakewood Park snack shack building at the expense of Cingular Wireless Corp. would save the City \$50,000 in future infrastructure costs.

Establishing a long-term Lease with Cingular Wireless Corp. for facilities including a cellular antenna system would result in an ongoing benefit to the Community Recreation Fund. While negotiation of such a lease is not completed, staff anticipate an approximate \$2,000 or more per month in new revenue. These funds would help offset existing expenses in the provision of recreation services for Sunnyvale.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public meetings were conducted at the Lakewood Park multi-purpose building on Tuesday March 14, 2006, at 12 p.m. and 7 p.m., and on Saturday, March 18, 2006, at 10 a.m.

Public contact was made through posting of the Parks and Recreation Commission agenda on the City's official notice bulletin board and on the City's web page and the availability of the report in the Parks and Recreation Administration Office, Community Center, and Senior Center.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Recommend that the Planning Commission approve the proposed cellular antenna project as proposed by Cingular Wireless and as noted in Attachment A.
2. Recommend that the Planning Commission approve the proposed cellular antenna project as proposed by Cingular Wireless and as noted in Attachment A and including specific changes to plans.
3. Recommend that the Planning Commission not approve the proposed cellular antenna project as proposed by Cingular Wireless and as noted in Attachment A.
4. Make no recommendation to the Planning Commission on this subject.
5. Other recommendation to the Planning Commission as appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Recommend that the Planning Commission approve the proposed cellular antenna project as proposed by Cingular Wireless and as noted in Attachment A.

This action would provide ongoing financial support to the Community Recreation Fund, save the City Infrastructure Replacement Fund (for the snack shack) and improve communications available to the residents and community.

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Approved by:

David A. Lewis, Director, Parks and Recreation

Prepared by: Curtis Black, Superintendent of Parks

Attachments

A. Attachment A, Project Site Plans

B. Attachment B, Invitation to Public Meetings